

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. This amendment is being filed concurrently with an RCE.

By this amendment all previous claims have been canceled and new claims 48-52 are presented for consideration on the merits. Support for new claims 48-52 can be found in Figures 2A and 3, and the corresponding disclosure in the specification such as the second paragraph on page 16 and the paragraph bridging pages 18 and 19. Please note that the condensers 43-45 correspond to the condensing mechanism and the gutters 43c-45c to the recovery mechanism.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Claim 1

The Official Action at page 2 discusses the interpretation of claim 1. However, since claim 1 has been canceled, any issues pertaining to claim 1 are considered moot.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 14, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over ENDO et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0131793).

Claims 4, 6-8, 15, 16, 18, 42, 43 and 47 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over ENDO et al.

Claims 1-9, 11, 14-20, 42, 43 and 47 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over COHN (U.S. Patent 3,965,851) in view of STROBUSH et al. (U.S. Patent 5,881,476), optionally considering AOKI (U.S. Publication 2002/0031608 A1).

In the previous Official Action, claims 10, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over COHN in view of STROBUSH et al., optionally considering AOKI, and further in view of REZNIK (U.S. Patent 4,694,586).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a method for drying a coating layer which is formed by applying a coating solution containing solvent to a moving web, which is exemplarily illustrated in Figures 2A and 3 of the application, which are reproduced below.

FIG.2A

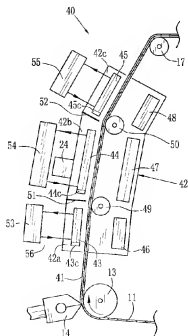
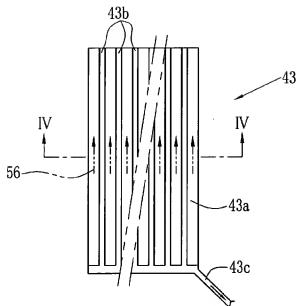


FIG.3



Independent claim 48 of the present invention sets forth:

"condensing vapor of said solvent by a condensing mechanism disposed on a coating side of said moving web;

recovering the condensed vapor of said solvent by a recovery mechanism; and

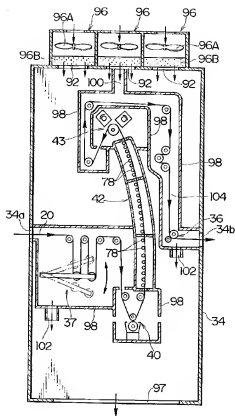
keeping the temperature of said recovery mechanism higher than that of said condensing mechanism by a temperature control mechanism such that said vapor of said solvent does not condense on said recovery mechanism."

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art teaches or infers the present invention as claimed.

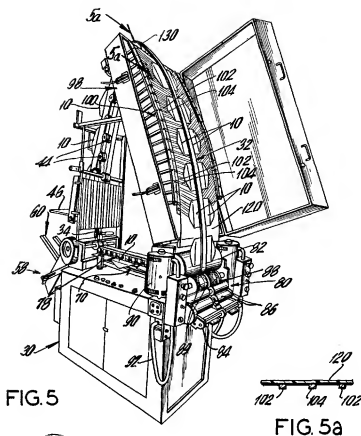
For example, the process of the present invention could not be performed by the technology of ENDO et al., typified by

the apparatus is shown in Figure 2 of ENDO et al., which is reproduced below.

FIG 2



Similarly, the envelope technology of COHN, shown in Figure 5 of the reference (below), fails to teach or infer a claimed embodiment of the present invention.



ENDO et al. thus fail to anticipate or render *prima facie* unpatentable a claimed embodiment of the present invention. One of ordinary skill in the art would thus fail to produce a claimed embodiment of the present invention from a knowledge of COHN, STROBUSH et al., AOKI and REZNIK. A *prima facie* case of unpatentability has thus not been made.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that the rejections have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and no issues remain. The Examiner is

accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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